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NEAC #0370-79

22 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Warning Working Group

The Warning Working Group met [] on 10-11 January 1979. [] attended in addition to the regular membership. []

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1. The main purpose of the meeting was a discussion in depth of the Strategic Warning Staff and the requirements of NIO/W for staff support. The results of this discussion will be incorporated in a study to be drafted by NIO/W and forwarded for DCI approval. This paper is to be circulated in draft to the Working Group for further discussion and refinement. []

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2. The Group agreed that it was premature for it to assume any role in the management of WISP, but it would maintain a watching brief. To this end the Chairman would become a member of the WISP steering committee and Admiral [] invited any other members of the Working Group not already represented to join the steering group. There was some discussion of WISP funding, the question being whether intervention to provide another \$150,000 in FY-80 was desirable. Admiral [] noted that there were other projects on which he would rather see additional money spent and it was agreed that no action would be taken. []

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3. The Group then turned to the subject of crisis management. The Chairman noted that the DCI had asked the Group to take on this problem as a management function only. He provided the Group with a list of relevant issues (attached), noting that he divided it into two parts. The first were items pertaining to procedures for dealing with crises short of major hostilities involving the US; the second were those which dealt with major hostilities and the period immediately leading up to them. He said that he thought the first set of issues could properly be handled by the Working Group as it stood, the second depended on a presidential resolution of the long-standing unanswered question -- what is the DCI's role in war time? He would place those issues in Ia on the agenda for Working Group consideration in the near future. He would like to get some agreement on Ib at the present meeting, and he would recommend to the DCI that he discuss the issues under II with the President. []

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Approved For Release 2005/03/24 : CIA-RDP83B01027R000200140006-5

4. On 1b it was agreed that the Washington Operations Center Conference should be reconstituted as a sub-committee of the Warning Working Group. Its chair should be rotating, with CIA taking the first year, but it should have a permanent Executive Secretary, who would be the Assistant NIO/W. The conference would in general be responsible for questions on how operations centers relate to one another, including communications and procedures. Specifically, it would be the oversight body for the CRITIC system, for NOIWON, and for CONTEXT. It should meet regularly, and one of its first orders of business would be to make recommendations as to the future of the CONTEXT system, including an executive agent if appropriate. []

5. The Chairman announced that [] would become the Assistant NIO/W. He noted that he had talked to Diane Lavoy about the standing request that a progress report be made to HPSCI in January. It was apparent that the Congress was not well enough pulled together to know what it wanted or when; the original mid-January date was obviously out and it was not even clear that a hearing would actually be required. He also said that Mr. Carlucci had expressed interest in having a meeting of his committee at the NFIB level to maintain momentum. This would probably take the form of a progress report by NIO/W at the end of the next NFIB meeting after 16 January. []

6. The Group did not have time to discuss in depth the draft production strategy against the NIT. This will be taken up again at an early meeting. In the meantime, the members were requested to develop proposals for a research program leading to a follow-up Memo to Holders of NIE 4-1-78. []

Richard Lehman
NIO for Warning

Attachment

Distribution:

- 1 - WWG Members
- 1 - Warning Working Group File
- 1 - NIO/W Chrono
- 1 - DD/NFAC
- 1 - D/OCO
- 1 - NFAC Registry

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

I. Procedural problems

A. Contingency

1. The "national sitrep" question
2. SOP for DCI activities in crisis
3. Contingency plans for tasking in crisis

B. On-going

1. Washington Operations Center Conference -- should it continue, and for what? Relationship to WWG.
2. The Critic system
3. NOIWON
4. CONTEXT

II. Major Policy Issues

A. What is the DCI's role in Wartime? -- a Presidential/Congressional decision

B. Deriving from A

1. Relationship of the DCI to the NCA
2. C³ for the DCI in major emergency
3. DCI's responsibilities to the U&S Commands
4. Command Relationship Agreement
5. NPIC
6. NITC